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# Enhancing Microgrid Resilience and Survivability under Static and Dynamic Islanding Constraints

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**Abstract**—Microgrids (MGs) are usually characterised by reduced inertia that can lead to large transients after an unintentional islanding event. These transients can result in cascaded device disconnections, triggered by protections, leading to partial or full loss of load in the MG. In this paper, we propose a MG operational planning model for grid-connected operation, enhanced with fault-triggered islanding conditions that ensure the MG survivability (both transient and steady-state) after islanding. We consider the dynamic frequency behaviour after islanding using a non-linear frequency response model and incorporating the associated constraints in the multi-stage, mixed-integer, linear model of the planning problem. Specifically, we include limits on the maximum rate of change of frequency, frequency nadir, and the steady-state frequency deviation. Moreover, to solve this operational planning problem, we propose an iterative solution algorithm that ensures reliable frequency response, self-sufficiency, and optimal operation. Finally, we employ the CIGRE low-voltage distribution network to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed method and its suitability in ensuring the reliability, survivability, and resilience of a MG.

**Index Terms**—Microgrid, unintentional islanding, operational planning, resilience, survivability.

## I. INTRODUCTION

One of the most important engineering challenges of the century is the design of a resilient infrastructure that can survive extreme events and continue to provide services during critical outages. In [1], the resilience of an energy system is said to entail its capacity to tolerate disturbances and continue to deliver affordable energy services to consumers. During reinforcement planning, operators may opt to upgrade existing equipment with more robust designs. In power system operation, however, the solution requires the utilization of control measures that can ensure adaptability, flexibility and fast recovery of power supply to the load demand in the event of a major contingency.

Microgrids (MGs) have been widely proposed as a solution to increase grid resilience to extreme weather conditions and unexpected faults, thus preventing disruptions and system blackouts. In the event of unexpected grid contingencies, MGs can disconnect from the grid and continue supplying local consumers, or at least a critical subset of loads. The successful MG island creation is, however, subject to adequate prior scheduling of the local generation as well as its ability to survive islanding transients.

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Different optimisation-based, operational planning (OP) problems with constraints pertaining to the grid-connected and islanded operation have been proposed in literature to ensure self-sufficiency and steady-state security of MGs after islanding events [2]–[5]. However, these methods ignore the transients associated with the abrupt grid disconnection in an unintentional islanding event. That is, the proposed methods implicitly assume that the MG will survive the initial voltage and frequency transients and will reach a steady-state equilibrium characterised by the post-islanding power-flow equations. Such formulations provide an optimistic solution concerning the MG survivability. However, violations of security limits during unintentional islanding can trigger different protective devices leading to generator or load disconnections in the MG and the possibility of cascaded failures.

While the variations in power in-feed in a MG affect both the frequency and voltage dynamic security of the network, in this study, we will only focus on the frequency response since many common renewable generator protections rely on frequency measurements. The secure dynamic response in OP problems has been addressed in [6]–[8] using heuristic frequency stability constraints, while in [9], [10] linearized analytical frequency related constraints for traditional and low-inertia systems, respectively, based on a low-order non-linear frequency response model [11], are added to the unit commitment models. These studies, however, apply simplified frequency response constraints to the planning problem in modelling the dynamic security of the network.

This paper presents a multi-period, centralised, OP problem for a hybrid MG consisting of a synchronous generator (SG) and converter-interfaced generators (CIGs). The objective is to minimise operational costs and ensure energy sufficiency after an unintentional islanding, with static and dynamic constraints ensuring survivability during and after the event. We propose an iterative solution algorithm of the OP problem that allows to incorporate the non-linear dynamic constraints relating to islanding transients into the OP limits in a tractable manner. Moreover, we evaluate the resilience level of the MG to unscheduled islanding from the main grid and analyse control measures that can be adopted to improve system flexibility.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows. In Section II, we introduce the response model of the MG during and after an islanding event. Section III presents the proposed OP algorithm with the dynamic constraints. In Section IV, we present a case study that analyzes the method's performance.

Finally, in Section V, we give some concluding remarks.

## II. MICROGRID FREQUENCY RESPONSE MODEL

In this section, we present the key aspects of the dynamic behaviour of the MG during the islanding, from which we extract the survivability limits embedded in the OP problem.

MG generators can be either grid-supporting, able to provide voltage and frequency control during transient events, or grid-feeding, whose active ( $P$ ) and reactive ( $Q$ ) power output is only determined by supervisory control and are considered as constant  $PQ$  injections during the transients. The transient response and the steady-state operating point subsequent to an islanding incident are governed by the grid-supporting units (either SGs or CIGs), in combination with the dynamics of the loads. While this study neglects load dynamics, the methodology can be extended to include their impact.

The frequency response of SGs is governed by the electromechanical dynamics and the turbine-governor dynamics and control [11]. In fast-acting CIGs, the power-frequency droop ensures power sharing and frequency control while inertia response can be emulated by incorporating virtual synchronous machine (VSM) control [12]. Reference [10] introduces a combined frequency response model incorporating SGs and CIGs with droop or VSM control. This model is used to derive analytical expressions for the performance metrics governing the transient frequency response in the event of step change in active power [10], [12]:

$$\dot{\omega}(t) = -\frac{\Delta P}{M} \quad (1)$$

$$\Delta\omega_{max} = -\frac{\Delta P}{D + R_g} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{T(R_g - F_g)}{M}} e^{-\zeta\omega_n t_m} \right) \quad (2)$$

$$\Delta\omega_{ss} = -\frac{\Delta P}{D + R_g} \quad (3)$$

The dynamic frequency response is characterized by the instantaneous rate of change of frequency (RoCoF) ( $\dot{\omega}(t)$ ) and the frequency nadir/zenith ( $\pm\omega_{max}$ ), while the quasi steady-state (QSS) response is governed by frequency deviation ( $\omega_{ss}$ ). The per-unit aggregated parameters in (1)-(3) and more details on the model derivation are given in [12].

Due to the high penetration of CIGs, the reduced system inertia in MGs can compromise the frequency performance leading to higher nadir/zenith and RoCoF levels. To prevent the activation of under/over frequency protections and RoCoF relays, active power needs to be managed efficiently.

## III. OPERATIONAL PLANNING MODEL FORMULATION WITH SURVIVABILITY CONSTRAINTS

The MG components considered include distributed local generating units (SGs and CIGs) and loads. The loads consist of constant loads as well as flexible loads that can be shifted in time. Linearized *DistFlow* equations are used to model the power flows in the network [13].

In the following,  $N$ ,  $N_{br}$ , and  $T$  signify the number of nodes, number of branches and the planning horizon, respectively, with  $t$  denoting a specific time period. Set  $\mathcal{N}$ ,

indexed by  $\{i = 1, \dots, N\}$ , is composed of all the nodes in the MG network, with subsets  $\mathcal{N}_{dg}$  and  $\mathcal{N}_{pv}$  for nodes with SGs and CIGs, respectively. The branches are contained in set  $\mathcal{L}$  denoted by links  $\{ij = 1, \dots, N_{br}\}$  where each link  $(ij)$  describes the line from node  $i$  to node  $j$ . Active and reactive power generated and consumed are denoted by  $p$  and  $q$  respectively. Superscripts “ $dg$ ”, “ $pv$ ” and “ $d$ ” represent the power of SGs, CIGs and load respectively. Constant and flexible loads are indicated by the superscripts “ $c$ ” and “ $f$ ”, respectively, to the respective powers. In grid-connected mode, all scheduled loads must be satisfied while load shedding is permitted only in islanded mode. The power exchanged with the grid at the point of common coupling is denoted as  $p_{i=1}^{grid}$  and  $q_{i=1}^{grid}$ . The system variables include voltage  $v_i$  at node  $i$ ; active/reactive power flows  $P_{ij}/Q_{ij}$  between nodes  $i$  and  $j$ ; and net power injection  $p_i/q_i$  at a node  $i$ . Finally,  $r_{ij}/x_{ij}$  denote the resistance/reactance of the link  $ij$ .

### A. Overview of Proposed Algorithm

To ensure both adequacy and survivability of the MG under unintentional islanding, we propose a three-stage solution algorithm where each iteration is indexed by  $\psi$ . The proposed algorithm is summarised in the sequel.

**First Stage:** In this stage, we determine the optimal power schedules for grid-connected and islanded operation models under static constraints, as presented in Sections III-B and III-C, and send the optimal schedules to the second stage.

**Second Stage:** In the second stage, we check the OP solution of the first stage against a frequency response model including the system dynamic security constraints (1)-(3). The aim of this stage is to ensure that the potential islanding step change of power at each hour  $t$ , dictated by the grid power  $p_{ti=1}^{grid}$ , does not destabilize the MG. Thus, the second-stage problem deals with finding the minimum change ( $\Delta p_t^{grid}$ ) in the grid power limits that will ensure the dynamic metrics are not violated, as discussed in Section III-D. The proposed three-stage algorithm stops if the second-stage problem has a zero optimal solution.

**Third Stage:** A nonzero optimal solution at the second stage indicates that the first-stage schedule will not guarantee a secure frequency response at the time of disconnection. Thus, in the third stage, we use the solution of the second stage ( $\Delta p_t^{grid}$ ) to tighten the power limits from/to the main grid for the next iteration ( $\psi + 1$ ).

### B. OP Model for Grid-Connected Mode

The model for grid-connected operation is presented in (4). The first and second terms of the objective function (4a) comprise of the costs attached to respectively the active ( $C^{grid,p}$ ) and reactive ( $C^{grid,q}$ ) power exchanged with the main grid. The import and export costs differ based on the energy market. The third and fourth terms are related to operational costs (considering negligible start up/shut down costs) of the SGs ( $C^{pdg}, C^{qdg}$ ), while the fifth term ( $C^{pv}$ ) is the operational cost of running and maintaining the renewable energy sources.

Finally,  $C^{flex}$  is a penalty cost incurred when load is shifted away from the customers' preferred consumption periods.

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{u_t^{gc}} \Phi^{gc} = & \sum_{t=1}^T \left( C^{grid,p} p_t^{grid} + C^{grid,q} \left| q_t^{grid} \right| \right) + \\ & \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_{dg}} \left( C_i^{pdg} p_{it}^{dg} + C_i^{qdg} \left| q_{it}^{dg} \right| \right) + \\ & \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_{pv}} C_i^{pv} p_{it}^{pv} + \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^N C_i^{flex} p_{it}^{d,f} \end{aligned} \quad (4a)$$

s.t.

$$\{P, Q\}_{ijt} = -\{p, q\}_{jt} + \sum_{k:j \rightarrow k} \{P, Q\}_{jkt}, \quad \forall t, j \quad (4b)$$

$$v_{it} = v_{jt} - (r_{ij} P_{ijt} + x_{ij} Q_{ijt}), \quad \forall t, (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (4c)$$

$$p_{it} = p_{t:i=1}^{grid} + p_{it}^{dg} + p_{it}^{pv} - p_{it}^d, \quad \forall t, i \quad (4d)$$

$$q_{it} = q_{t:i=1}^{grid} + q_{it}^{dg} + q_{it}^{pv} - q_{it}^d, \quad \forall t, i \quad (4e)$$

$$p_{it}^d = p_{it}^{d,c} + p_{it}^{d,f}, \quad q_{it}^d = q_{it}^{d,c} + q_{it}^{d,f}, \quad \forall t, i \quad (4f)$$

$$-\bar{S}_{ij} \leq P_{ij} \pm a_d Q_{ij} \leq \bar{S}_{ij}, \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (4g)$$

$$-\bar{S}_{ij} \leq a_d P_{ij} \pm Q_{ij} \leq \bar{S}_{ij}, \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (4h)$$

$$v_i \leq v_{it} \leq \bar{v}_i, \quad \forall t, i \quad (4i)$$

$$\{p, q\}_{t\psi}^{grid} \leq \{p, q\}_t^{grid} \leq \{\bar{p}, \bar{q}\}_{t\psi}^{grid} \quad \forall t \quad (4j)$$

$$\epsilon_{it}^{pv} \{p, q\}_{it}^{pv} \leq \{p, q\}_{it}^{pv} \leq \epsilon_{it}^{pv} \{\bar{p}, \bar{q}\}_{it}^{pv}, \quad \forall t, i \in \mathcal{N}_{pv} \quad (4k)$$

$$\epsilon_{it}^{dg} \{p, q\}_{it}^{dg} \leq \{p, q\}_{it}^{dg} \leq \epsilon_{it}^{dg} \{\bar{p}, \bar{q}\}_{it}^{dg}, \quad \forall t, i \in \mathcal{N}_{dg} \quad (4l)$$

$$\{\bar{p}, \bar{q}\}_i^d \leq \{p, q\}_{it}^d \leq \{\bar{p}, \bar{q}\}_i^d, \quad \forall t, i \quad (4m)$$

$$-r_i^d \leq p_{it}^d - p_{i(t-1)}^d \leq r_i^u, \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{N}_{dg} \quad (4n)$$

$$\epsilon_{iT_i^{off}}^{dg} - 1 \leq \epsilon_{it}^{dg} - \epsilon_{i(t-1)}^{dg} \leq \epsilon_{iT_i^{on}}^{dg}, \quad \forall t, i \in \mathcal{N}_{dg} \quad (4o)$$

$$\sum_{t=1}^T p_{it}^{dg} \Delta t \leq E_i^{dg,p}, \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{N}_{dg}, \quad (4p)$$

$$\sum_{t=1}^T p_{it}^{d,f} \Delta t = D_i^p, \quad \forall i \quad (4q)$$

Constraints (4b)-(4c) are the network power flow equations, while (4d)-(4e) relate to the net power injections at each node. The total load, constant and flexible, consumed at each node is given by (4f). Each branch is subject to a maximum loading limit,  $\bar{S}_{ij}$ , modeled by  $P_{ijt}^2 + Q_{ijt}^2 \leq \bar{S}_{ij}^2$ . This quadratic constraint is linearised with piece-wise approximations that construct a convex polygon [14]. Constraints (4g)-(4h) model the linearised loading limit where  $a_d = (\sqrt{2} - 1)$  is the derivative of the lines constructing the eight segments of the convex polygon. The nodal voltage limits are enforced by (4i) and constraints (4j)-(4m) ensure the limitations on power exchange from the grid, local generation capacity, and total load are not violated. The commitment states of the local generators are indicated by  $\epsilon_{it}^{pv}$  and  $\epsilon_{it}^{dg}$ . The active power limits (4j) on grid power are initially (at  $\psi = 1$ ) based on the operator limits, however, with succeeding iterations these are tightened based on the solution to the second stage problem, as

discussed in Section III-D. The SGs have upward/downward ( $r_i^u/r_i^d$ ) ramp limits (4n) and minimum on/off times (4o) where parameters  $T_i^{on}$  and  $T_i^{off}$  define the duration of "on" and "off" periods of the SG, respectively. Energy provided by the SG ( $E_i^{dg,p}$ ) is limited by (4p) within the planning horizon while the total flexible load energy consumption ( $D_i^p$ ) in an operating cycle is ensured by (4q).

The grid-connected operation model at each iteration  $\psi$  is a mixed-integer linear programming (MILP) problem with  $u_t^{gc} = [p_t^{grid}, q_t^{grid}, p_{it}^{pv}, q_{it}^{pv}, p_{it}^{dg}, q_{it}^{dg}, p_{it}^{d,f}]$  as the set of control variables.

### C. OP Model for Islanded Mode

The goal in the event of unintentional islanding is to ensure self-sufficiency of the MG especially in supplying the critical load. The islanded MG self-sufficiency needs to be ensured for at least one time period after disconnection. To achieve this, a robust model considering possible disconnection at each time period in the planning horizon is adopted. The problem is solved independently for each time period that the MG is potentially disconnected from the grid and the power exchange to the main grid is set to zero in (4d)-(4e). Equation 5 replaces the objective (4a) and tries to minimize load curtailment.

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_t^{isl} = \min_{u_t^{isl}} & \sum_{i=1}^N C_i^{shed,p} \left( (1 - \alpha_{it}) p_{it}^{d,c} + \Delta p_{it}^{d,f} \right) \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^N C_i^{shed,q} \left( (1 - \alpha_{it}) q_{it}^{d,c} + \Delta q_{it}^{d,f} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

In this mode, all loads can be curtailed though critical load is served with priority at all times. The integer  $\alpha_{it}$  is "1" when the load on node  $i$  is served and "0" otherwise.  $C_i^{shed}$  indicates the load priority level and cost of curtailing load at a particular node. The amount of flexible load curtailed is denoted by  $\Delta\{p, q\}^{d,f}$ . Constraints to system operation are similar to the grid-connected mode with  $\{p, q\}_{t:i=1}^{grid} = 0$ . The problem for islanded operation is formulated as an MILP with the control variables defined by  $u_t^{isl} = [\alpha_{it}, \Delta p_{it}^{d,f}, \Delta q_{it}^{d,f}]$ .

### D. Secure Frequency Response Problem

The survival of the MG without triggering the protective devices after an emergency islanding event depends on the size of the power step-change as well as the control capability of the MG generators. In turn, the power step-change is determined by the power exchange with the main grid at the time of disconnection. The frequency response characteristics of the MG can be determined from (1)-(3), given the control parameters and nominal powers of the units committed in the grid-connected mode problem at a given hour. The secure frequency response problem is formulated and solved for each iteration  $\psi$  and time instant  $t$  with the linear programming (LP) problem shown in (6).

To ensure the satisfaction of all metrics, a change ( $\Delta p_t^{grid}$ ) in the grid power exchanged at the given time instant may be required. The objective (6a), therefore, is to determine the minimal change in the grid power schedule at each time

TABLE I  
GENERATION UNITS PARAMETERS

	SG	PV1	PV2	PV3	PV4
Node	R1	R11	R15	R17	R18
kW % of peak load	175	350	235	150	90
Inertia (virtual for CIG), H [p.u]	7	7	-	-	-
Damping constant, D [p.u]	25	30	-	-	-
Mechanical power gain, K [p.u]	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	-
Droop gain, R [p.u]	0.03	-	0.05	0.05	-
Turbine power fraction, F [p.u]	0.35	-	-	-	-

instant such that a secure dynamic response is obtained. Constraints (6b)-(6d) enforce adherence of the grid-connected power schedules to the operator defined nadir/zenith, RoCoF and QSS frequency limits (denoted with  $^{lim}$ ), respectively.

$$\Phi_t^{dyn} = \min \left| \Delta p_t^{grid} \right| \quad (6a)$$

s.t.

$$\left| \frac{p_t^{grid} + \Delta p_t^{grid}}{D + R_g} \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{T(R_g - F_g)}{M}} e^{-\zeta \omega_n t_m} \right) \right| \leq \Delta \omega_{max}^{lim} \quad (6b)$$

$$\left| \frac{p_t^{grid} + \Delta p_t^{grid}}{M} \right| \leq \dot{\omega}^{lim} \quad (6c)$$

$$\left| \frac{p_t^{grid} + \Delta p_t^{grid}}{D + R_g} \right| \leq \Delta \omega_{ss}^{lim} \quad (6d)$$

A nonzero optimum cost value ( $\Phi_t^{dyn} > 0$ ), indicates that the prior determined schedule for grid-connected operation violates the metric limits. The value of  $\Delta p_t^{grid}$  is then used to adjust the maximum/minimum limits of power exchanged with the grid in (4j) for the associated time period as indicated in (7).  $\bar{\Delta p}^{grid}/\underline{\Delta p}^{grid}$  is used to increase/decrease the minimum/maximum limit on power from/to the grid.

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{p}_{t(\psi+1)}^{grid} &= p_{t\psi}^{grid} + \bar{\Delta p}_{t\psi}^{grid}, \quad \bar{p}_{t(\psi+1)}^{grid} = p_{t\psi}^{grid} - \underline{\Delta p}_{t\psi}^{grid} \\ \nu \bar{\Delta p}^{grid} + (\nu - 1) \underline{\Delta p}^{grid} &= \Delta p_t^{grid}, \quad \nu \in \{0, 1\} \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

#### IV. CASE STUDY

A modified version of the European configuration CIGRE residential LV network [15] (see Fig. 7.7 in [15]) is used to analyze the performance of the proposed method. The system includes four photovoltaic (PV) generators and one SG. Three of the PV generators have grid-supporting capabilities while one has fixed output PQ control. The parameters for the MG generators are given in Table I with a system base value of 500 kVA. 50% of the nominal load connected to node R1 is shiftable and nodes R15 and R16 have high priority critical load connected (30% of total load). The load parameters, load profiles, and cable parameters are adopted from [15], and typical European generation profiles of the PV units are considered for a 24-hour planning horizon.

For the dynamic constraints of Stage 2, the ENTSO-E thresholds for frequency nadir  $\Delta \omega_{max}^{lim} = 0.6$  Hz, Ro-

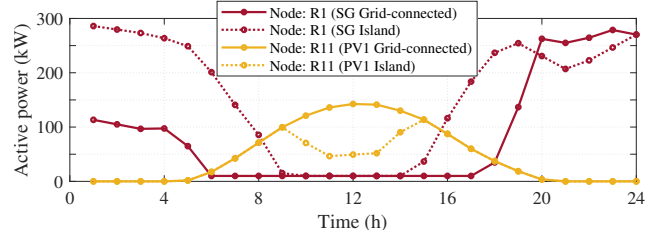


Fig. 1. Power generation of the local MG generators connected at nodes R1 and R11 in grid-connected and islanded modes.

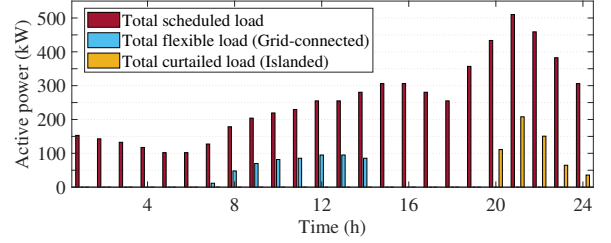


Fig. 2. Network totals of the nominal load profile, shifted load (improving control flexibility) in grid connected mode and curtailed load in islanded mode.

CoF  $\dot{\omega}^{lim} = 0.8$  Hz/s and quasi-steady-state frequency at  $\Delta \omega_{ss}^{lim} = 0.2$  Hz were used.

The implementation was done in MATLAB R2018b where the optimization model was formulated in YALMIP [16] and Gurobi employed as a solver.

##### A. Optimal Operation and Adequacy

Figure 1 shows the power output for each hour in grid-connected and islanded mode for two generators (one SG and one PV, connected to nodes R1 and R11 respectively). In grid-connected operation, the aim is to minimize operational costs while satisfying load demand. As PV units have zero generation cost, their output is maximized.

In islanded mode, the MG should have sufficient generating capacity to serve the critical loads. The sufficiency of the MG is analyzed for each hour in the 24-hour period subject to the PV and SG energy content present at the given hour. As can be observed in Fig. 1, the SG is only utilized in time periods with inadequate solar power. Furthermore, the variability of power from PV results in active power curtailment for the PV unit observed during hours 9-14 in islanded mode due to excess PV generation when the MG is islanded. Note that any excess PV power in grid-connected mode is sold to the grid as indicated by the positive values of grid power in Fig. 3 (a).

The variable PV generation and inadequacy of the SG result in load curtailment as indicated in Fig. 2 in some time periods. This is majorly experienced in hours 20 to 24, a part of the peak consumption period (hours 18-24). However, a maximum of 40% load is curtailed in each case, the critical load at nodes remains mostly served in the emergency islanding circumstances. The result provides an indication of the adequacy levels of the MG network showing necessity in better power management of the PV units to improve reliability and to better support islanded power modes.

The operational cost in grid-connected mode is minimized by shifting load to the time periods when the system has excess

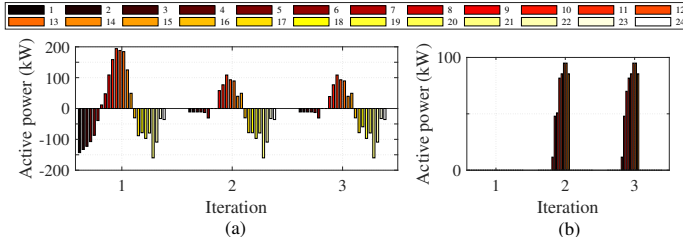


Fig. 3. Variation in (a) power imported (-) from and exported (+) to the grid and (b) flexible load scheduled, as grid power bounds vary at each iteration.

generation from the PV units (hours 7 to 16, Fig. 2). This also minimizes the MG reliance on the grid power and provides more flexibility especially given the limitations that are subject to the power exchange from the grid as shown in Fig. 3.

### B. Microgrid Survivability

To minimize performance degradation and prevent cascading failures due to operation of protective relays during islanding, the operational schedule is tested to ensure violations of the dynamic constraints are eliminated. The grid power is initially scheduled as indicated by iteration 1 in Fig. 3(a). Iterations 2 and 3 show reductions in the scheduled grid power due to insufficient system control capability to satisfy the dynamic constraints. The variation of RoCoF and QSS frequency values is shown in Fig. 4 for each islanding period. The results indicate minimized violations to of the metrics as grid power is reduced at each iteration. The dynamic frequency control capability is governed by both the nominal active power capacity and control parameters of units, defined in Table I. As these parameters are static, further system flexibility is critical. Figure 3(b) shows that the use of flexible loads increased system redundancy preventing infeasibility of the MG model where inadequate control ability led to unsatisfactory frequency response to meet thresholds. These are activated in iterations 2 and 3 as a preventive control measure to enhance survivability during an emergency islanding event.

The level of resilience of a system can be defined by its robustness, redundancy, resourcefulness and rapidity [17]. In this test case, the system robustness and resourcefulness are governed and limited by the control capability of the local generators. The flexible loads in the system are however able to provide the much required flexibility thus improving the overall resilience of the MG in the event of abrupt islanding events. This, however, comes at an increased cost due to the use of costly SG and load-shifting in grid-connected mode to reduce grid power exchange, as seen in Fig. 1 and 3.

### V. CONCLUSION

The operational flexibility of power systems is a key attribute in ensuring that the system can survive uncertain and high-impact disturbances. In this paper, we propose a centralized, robust, OP solution that can ensure system survivability as well as self-sufficiency given an abrupt islanding event of the MG. We find that the presence of flexible loads and the control capability of the local generators is vital in improving the MG operational flexibility and robustness. Moreover, we

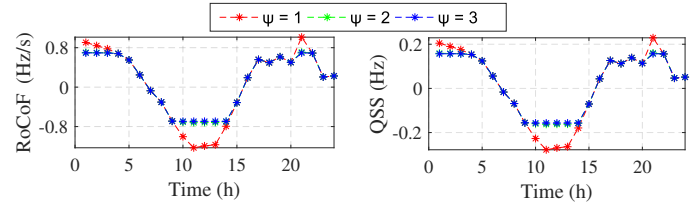


Fig. 4. RoCoF and QSS values at each islanding time instant over each solution iteration. Positive/negative values associated with active power export/import from grid prior to the MG disconnection.

show that not considering the dynamic, transient, behaviour of the MG right after the islanding event, can lead to optimistic solutions and can endanger the survivability of the MG.

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